



Finding Aid for

**COLLECTION ON QUILT DESIGNER RUBY SHORT McKIM, 1916-2001**

**Accession 2019.31**

Finding Aid Published: October 2022

Benson Ford Research Center  
The Henry Ford  
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## OVERVIEW

REPOSITORY: Benson Ford Research Center  
The Henry Ford  
20900 Oakwood Blvd  
Dearborn, MI 48124-5029  
www.thehenryford.org  
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ACCESSION NUMBER: 2019.31

CREATOR: Nickols, Pat L. (Collector)

TITLE: Collection on Quilt Designer Ruby Short McKim

INCLUSIVE DATES: 1916-2001

BULK DATES: 1930-1939

QUANTITY: 0.3 cubic ft. (1 box)

LANGUAGE: The materials are in English.

ABSTRACT: A small assembled collection on Ruby Short McKim who is best known as a designer and distributor of quilt and needlework designs. Included in the collection are patterns, catalogs, brochures, clippings, articles and advertisements.

## ADMINISTRATIVE INFORMATION

- ACCESS RESTRICTIONS: Collection is open for research.
- COPYRIGHT: Copyright has been transferred to The Henry Ford by the donor. Copyright for some items in the collection may still be held by their respective creator(s).
- ACQUISITION: Donated to The Henry Ford by Pat L. Nickols, 2019.
- RELATED MATERIAL: Related material held by The Henry Ford:  
- Ruby McKim Sampler Quilt, circa 1930. Object ID 2019.32.52. Item digitized and available online at <https://www.thehenryford.org/collections-and-research/digital-collections/artifact/485250>.  
- McKim Ruby Short. 1962. *One Hundred and One Patchwork Patterns* Dover ed. rev. version ed. Mineola N.Y: Dover Publications. Benson Ford Research Center Library collection.
- PREFERRED CITATION: Item, folder, box, accession 2019.31, Collection on Quilt Designer Ruby Short McKim, Benson Ford Research Center, The Henry Ford
- PROCESSING INFORMATION: Collection processed by Janice Unger, 2020.
- DESCRIPTION INFORMATION: Finding aid written by Janice Unger, November 2020, and published in October 2022.  
  
Finding aid prepared using Describing Archives: A Content Standard (DACS) and local guidelines.

## **BIOGRAPHICAL/HISTORICAL NOTE**

Ruby Short McKim (1891-1976), best known as a designer and distributor of quilt and needlework designs, graduated from the New York School of Fine and Applied Art. She later became the Children's Art Editor of *Child Life Magazine* and the Home Art Editor of *Better Homes & Gardens*. Partnering with her husband, McKim Studios was started in 1928 to serve as a home-based mail order business for needlework supplies and patterns. McKim is also known for publishing the book *One Hundred and One Patchwork Patterns*.

## **SCOPE AND CONTENT NOTE**

The Collection on Quilt Designer Ruby Short McKim (0.3 cubic ft., 1 box) is an assembled collection and contains a stamped McKim pattern of a flower basket with tulips and daffodils; a list of patterns; 8 pattern catalogs and brochures; 40 quilt patterns, some on newsprint; and about 25 newspaper clippings, photocopies, and printouts of articles and advertisements.